

How to...

Find a Topic

revised 7/04



UTA Libraries

<http://library.uta.edu/Main/home.uta>

FINDING A TOPIC BY LOOKING ONLINE

Browse the latest news on News Services and through Newspapers.

For links, see <http://library.uta.edu/Main/broadBrowse.uta?subj=newsdb>

Browse online paper topic sources. General Paper Topics (Idaho State University) at <http://www.isu.edu/library/research/topics.htm>

Browse CQ Researcher (UTA Libraries Database) at <http://library.uta.edu/Main/browseTitle.uta#c> . This database looks at issues like biotech food, faith-based initiatives, women in sports and many more current topics.

**Browse by Date,
Browse by Topic or use
the PDF Index to find a
topic**

Browse the Yahoo Directory, Issues and Causes at

http://dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/issues_and_causes/

Browse UTA Libraries Internet Resources Page at <http://library.uta.edu/Main/genWebsites.uta?GW=genWebIndex> for places to start looking. (Take a look at the professional organizations. They might talk about recent issues or controversies in your field of study).

Look at TOPICsearch (UTA Libraries Database) at <http://library.uta.edu/Main/browseTitle.uta#t> . This database looks at current issue topics.

The screenshot shows the TOPICsearch database interface. At the top, it says "Database: TOPICsearch". Below this is a search form with a "Find:" label and three input fields. The first field is empty, and the second and third fields contain "and" in a dropdown menu. To the right of the search form are three "Fields" dropdown menus and a "Search" button. A red arrow points from the top right towards the search button. A callout box labeled "Option 1" points to the first search input field. Below the search form is a "Refine Search" section with tabs for "Refine Search" and "Search History". Under "Limit your results:", there are three sections: "Full Text" with a checkbox, "Current Events" with a list of topics (Afghanistan, Catholic Church Crisis, Corporate Scandals) and a dropdown arrow, and "Topics" with a list of topics (Aging, AIDS, Alcohol) and a dropdown arrow. A callout box labeled "Option 2" points to the "Current Events" and "Topics" sections. A red arrow also points to the "Search" button.

Option 1:
Search for a topic by entering in keywords and then clicking on the search button.

Option 2:
Search for a topic by choosing either a Current Event or a Topic, and then clicking on the search button

Look at the UTA Libraries Databases Subject Page at <http://library.uta.edu/Main/browseSubject.uta> , pick a subject/major and then browse one of the databases listed.

Select a Category:

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|--|---|
| ◆ General Resources | ◆ News & Current Events |
| ◆ Books and Online Catalogs | ◆ Full Text Resources |
| ◆ Architecture & Fine Arts | ◆ Kinesiology |
| ◆ Business & Economics | ◆ Medicine & Health Studies |
| ◆ Education | ◆ Public Affairs & Law |
| ◆ Engineering & Computer Science | ◆ Science & Mathematics |
| ◆ Humanities & History | ◆ Social Sciences |

FINDING A TOPIC BY LOOKING IN THE LIBRARY

Look in Magazines, Journals, Newspapers: You can browse these sources by going to the 3rd floor of Central Library and finding the current issues of the Dallas Morning News, New York Times, Newsweek, US News & World Report, Time Magazine, and many field journals. (Some field journals will be located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library & the Science and Engineering Library)

Look in Topical Books: You can look at some topical books by going to the Reference Desk on the 2nd floor of the Central Library. Ask for 10,000 Ideas for Term Papers, Projects, Reports & Speeches or 99 Jumpstarts to Research: topic guides for finding information on current issues.

Look in Controversial Issue Books: You can browse a listing of some controversial issue books that can be found in the UTA Libraries. Look at the web site at <http://library.uta.edu/Main/guidesBiblsDetail.uta?GB=gbControversialIssues>. The books will be located in the Central Library on the 4th and 5th floors and the Science and Engineering Library.